

**What Is Claimed Is:**

1. A nonwoven barrier fabric, comprising
  - a) a fine-denier spunbond layer comprising a plurality of continuous thermoplastic filaments having a denier of between 0.7 and 1.2 denier;
  - b) a barrier layer material deposited uniformly onto the fine denier spunbond layer and the layers consolidated to form a composite fabric; and
  - c) said composite fabric having a hydrostatic head to barrier layer basis weight ratio of about at least 4.9 cm/gsm.
2. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in claim 1, wherein:
  - 10 said thermoplastic filaments are chosen from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters and the blends thereof.
  3. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in claim 2, wherein:
    - 15 said polyolefins are chosen from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene, and blends thereof.
    4. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in claim 1, wherein: the continuous filaments may comprise bicomponent, multicomponent profiles and the blends thereof.
    5. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in claim 1, wherein the barrier layer is selected from the group consisting of melt-blown, cellulosic pulp,
      - 20 microporous film and monolithic film.
    6. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in claim 5, wherein:
      - 25 said melt-blown barrier layer having fiber diameters in the range of about 1 to 10 microns and a basis weight of less than or equal to about 10 grams/meter<sup>2</sup>.
    7. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in claim 6, wherein:
      - 30 said melt-blown barrier layer having a basis weight in the range of 1 to 8 grams/ meter<sup>2</sup>.
    8. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in claim 1, wherein:
      - said means of consolidation are chosen from the group consisting of pressure bonding, thermal calendering, and through-air bonding.

9. A nonwoven barrier fabric, comprising:
- 5        a) a first fine-denier spunbond layer comprising a plurality of continuous thermoplastic filaments having a denier of between 0.7 and 1.2 denier;
- 10      b) a barrier layer material deposited onto the first fine denier spunbond layer;
- 15      c) a second spunbond layer deposited onto the barrier layer;
- 20      d) the first fine denier spunbond layer, the barrier layer, and the second spunbond layer being consolidated into a composite fabric structure; and
- 25      e) said composite fabric having a hydrostatic head to barrier layer basis weight ratio of about at least 4.9 cm/gsm.
10. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in claim 9, wherein the second spunbond layer is a fine-denier spunbond layer comprising a plurality of continuous thermoplastic filaments having a denier of between 0.7 and 1.2 denier.
11. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in claim 9, wherein:  
said thermoplastic filaments are chosen from the group consisting of polyolefins, polyesters and blends thereof.
12. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in claim 9, wherein: said thermoplastic filaments of the first fine denier spunbond layer and the second spunbond layer comprise different thermoplastic polymers.
13. A nonwoven barrier fabric as in claim 10, wherein:  
said barrier layer is a melt-blown barrier layer having fiber diameters in the range of 1 to 10 microns and a basis weight less than or equal to about 10 grams/meter<sup>2</sup>.
14. A nonwoven barrier fabric, comprising:
- 30      a) a first fine-denier spunbond layer comprising a plurality of continuous thermoplastic filaments having a denier of between 0.7 and 1.2 denier;
- b) a first barrier layer material deposited onto the first fine denier spunbond layer;

- c) a second barrier layer deposited onto the first barrier layer;
- d) a second spunbond layer deposited onto the second barrier layer;
- e) said layers being consolidated into a composite fabric structure;

and

- 5           f) said composite fabric having a hydrostatic head to barrier layer basis weight ratio of about at least 4.9 cm/gsm.

15.       A nonwoven fabric as in claim 14, wherein the second spunbond layer is a fine-denier spunbond layer comprising a plurality of continuous thermoplastic filaments having a denier of between 0.7 and 1.2 denier.

10       16.      A nonwoven fabric, as in claim 14, wherein:

said consolidation method includes thermal calendering said laminate fabric structure to exhibit a hydrostatic head rating of at least about 50 cm.

17.       A disposable waste-containment garment, comprising;  
an absorbent core,

15       a liquid pervious topsheet,  
a liquid impervious backsheets,  
said liquid impervious backsheets comprising a fine-denier composite fabric,  
said fine-denier composite fabric having a hydrostatic head to barrier layer basis weight ratio greater than 4.9 cm/gsm.

20       18.      A disposable waste-containment garment as in Claim 17, wherein the garment is a diaper.

19.       A disposable waste-containment garment as in Claim 17, wherein the garment is a catamenial device.

25       20.      A disposable garment comprising,  
a gown having a front panel, a pair of back panels extending from opposed sides of the front panel, and a pair of sleeve panels, wherein one or more of the respective panels are comprised of a fine denier composite fabric having a hydrostatic head to barrier basis weight ratio of about at least 4.9 cm/gsm.

30       21.      A disposable garment as in claim 20 wherein said gown is a medical gown.

22. A disposable garment as in claim 20 wherein said gown is an industrial protective garment.

23. A battery separator, comprising

5 a) a first fine-denier spunbond layer comprising a plurality of continuous polyolefin filaments having a denier of between 0.7 and 1.2 denier;

b) a barrier layer material deposited onto the first fine denier spunbond layer;

c) the first fine denier spunbond layer, the barrier layer, and the second spunbond layer being consolidated into a battery separator; and

10 e) said battery separator having a hydrostatic head to barrier layer basis weight ratio of about at least 4.9 cm/gsm.

24. A battery separator as in claim 24, wherein the barrier layer comprises one or more layers of melt-blown polyolefin microfibers.